

SBA closes offices in Hardin Co.

The U.S. Small Business Administration will close its Newton, Texas Disaster Loan Outreach Center located at the County Extension Office on 509 Main Street at 5 pm on Thursday, February 8 announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

The SBA DLOC located in Kountze, TX at the Hardin County Courthouse, 300 Monroe Street, will close on Friday, February 15, at 4:30 p.m." Judd added.

All disaster victims who have received an SBA application are encouraged to return it to the office nearest you, before it closes. The centers have been open since January 18, 2007 to provide personalized assistance to residents and businesses that suffered losses from the severe storms and flooding that began on October 15, 2006.

"SBA's customer service representatives are available to answer specific questions about how a disaster loan from SBA may help each victim recover from the disaster, and provide one-on-one assistance in completing their loan application." Judd said.

Disaster loans of up to \$200,000 are still available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment inventory and other business assets.

"Additionally, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available to small businesses if they were adversely impacted financially by the disaster, even if they did not have property damages.

After SBA's disaster offices close individuals and businesses should mail their completed applications to SBA at 14925 Kingsport Road, Ft. Worth, TX 76155. Applications and information may also be obtained by writing to SBA at this address or by calling toll-free (800) 659-5955. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is March 19, 2007. The deadline to return economic injury applications is October 16, 2007.